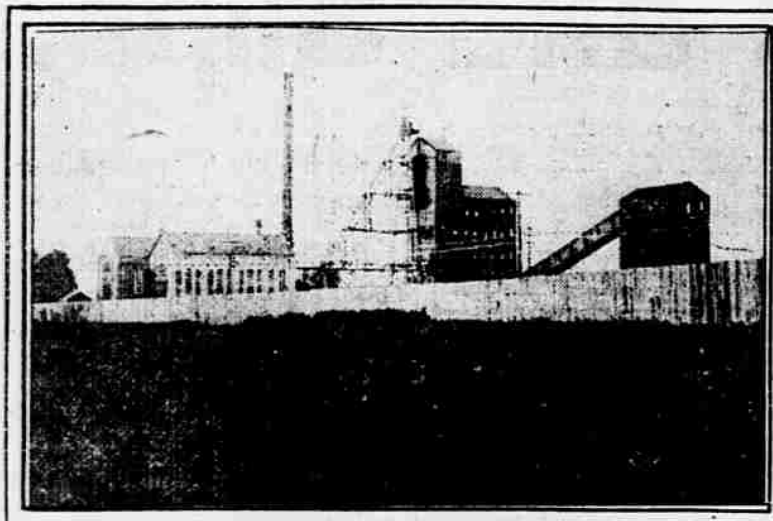


COAL MINERS AT ZEIGLER PREPARE TO CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE LEITER MILLIONS; OWNER OF LITTLE TOWN NOW FACING THE STRONGEST PROPOSITION OF HIS EVENTFUL CAREER.

Capitalist Has Vast Estate at His Command to Back Him in Defiance of Organized Labor, While Workmen Are Supported by One of the Ablest Organizations in the Country—Solution of Issue May Determine Future of Miners' Union and of Southern Illinois's Greatest Industry—Employees and Their Families Desert Village in Peace and Establish Camp Turner, Where They Are Quartered—Guards Patrol Entrances to Mining Hamlet to See That Their Places Are Not Taken.



POWER HOUSE AND TIPPLE AT ZEIGLER,
SHOWING THE TEN FOOT STOCKADE IN FRONT.



A STREET IN CAMP TURNER.



G. J. STEIN, SHERIFF
OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.



OFFICE BUILDING (AT LEFT) AND ANNEX AT ZEIGLER.
Mr. Leiter sleeps on the second floor of the office building and has his meals prepared in the annex when he is at Zeigler.

In Selecting Site for City, Possessor of 7,400 Acres of Land in Franklin County Chose an Ideal Location—Fitted Up With Modern Dwellings and All the Conveniences of Large Cities—Now Occupied by Deputy Sheriffs Guarding Property.

SCALE OF WAGES MADE BY LEITER.

Following is the scale which was posted by Mr. Leiter as his ultimatum to the miners on July 7:

The following scale of wages becomes effective on and after this date:

Entries 12 feet to 18 feet.	
Chain Machines:	
Runner	10c
Shooter	8c
Leader	20c
Puncher	
Runner	12c
Shooter	8c
Leader	20c
Pick	
All work	55c

ROOMS.

Chain Machines:	
Runner	54c
Shooter	40c
Leader, by hand	22c
Machines by day until capacity is established.	
For all room necks and cut throughs under twelve feet the scale shall be on a basis of yardage at \$1.52 per yard, the amount of which work shall be determined by the manager. Room widening shall be at 45 degrees for the price, per room, of \$3.66.	
The charge for powder shall be \$1.75 per can, the charge for drill sharpening shall be at current rates for such service in Williamson County.	

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DO ANY PORTION OF THE WORK BY THE DAY, PAYING THEREOF THE RATES OF WAGES CURRENT IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

Zeigler, Ill., July 29.—Young "Joe" Leiter is facing the strongest proposition which he has yet encountered in his eventful career. Upon his own ground at Zeigler, Franklin County, Ill., the millionaire mine owner openly defies the solidly and splendidly organized mine workers of America, and in armed opposition the contending forces are prepared to continue the struggle indefinitely.

Back of Mr. Leiter is the capital which the vast Leiter estate can command. Behind the 200 odd miners who are actually on strike and who are bearing the brunt of the contest against the Leiter interests are the treasuries of every local union of the United Mine Workers of America and the aid and support of the State and national organizations.

So it is a fight to the finish. Mr. Leiter, on the one side, demands his right as an American citizen and property owner to manage his property as he sees fit and without consultation or advice from any source which he does not choose to call upon.

The position which the miners take is that, by mutual agreement between coal operators and coal miners made through national and State conventions, certain terms of employment and rules for the governing of mines have been adopted and are now in force in the surrounding territory. These terms they demand shall apply to the Zeigler property.

In short the issue is: "Shall the union be recognized by Leiter?" And in its solution rests the future of the miners' organization and to a certain extent the future of the coal industry in Southern Illinois.

TOWN RECENTLY BUILT.

Two years ago the town of Zeigler was not on the map. Six-Mile Township of Franklin County was only a few acres of characteristic Southern Illinois soil, little improved and sparsely inhabited. The Big Muddy, washed along on its western border, and there was not a dream that valuable coal fields lay under every acre of its banks. Down from his Chicago office came Levi Z. Leiter one day with an enthusiastic speculation, who imagined that since the Big Muddy, near its junction with the Mississippi, swept its mine after mine of the few acres of the bituminous coal which went to market, there was reason to believe that there were just as valuable deposits further up the stream. An expert engineer accompanied him, and when in the course of a few months Franklin County land began to quietly change hands, the result of their investigations became known.

Through two and three, and in some cases a half dozen different transfers of individual tracts, Levi Z. Leiter came into possession of no less than 7,500 acres of this land, for which he paid prices ranging from \$10 for the first few acres to \$20 and \$30, to which figure his continued purchases forced the land.

Then he announced that he had determined to develop the coal on a basis which had never before been attempted in Southern Illinois. Civil engineers, architects and mining experts were drafted,

and the first result was the plan for the model city of Zeigler, christened after a characteristic name in the Leiter family.

To a certain extent the plan of Pullman was followed, but avoiding the rocks and shoals which brought desolation to that dream of an ideal. A saw mill was the first piece of machinery which was installed, and from the oak trees which covered the property lumber was cut for the offices, store buildings, and then for the model houses, which were erected for the miners. Beginning April, 1903, the shaft was sunk, and machinery for its operation, supposed to be the finest and most elaborate in the Illinois fields, was installed.

BEGIN MINING COAL.

Shortly after April 1, 1904, the plant was in such a condition that it was possible for miners to begin getting out the coal, and in making the entries and opening cuts a force varying from fifty to 200 men were employed, all of whom were members of local union No. 248 of the United Mine Workers of America. At this time a verbal agreement was entered into between the union and representatives of Mr. Leiter to the effect that during the period of construction work, as it was denominated, miners should be paid by the day at these rates:

Leaders and balers, \$2.50; drivers and pipe men, \$2.00; practical miners and experts, \$3.00; machine men, \$3.50 for the runners and \$2 for the helpers.

This scale of wages was agreed upon and was to continue in force until the mine should be in condition to be placed upon "piece work," as are the other mines of the State. There has never been an agreement made by the operators and men as to a union scale in Franklin County. At the Springfield conference, which last spring fixed the rate for two years, Mr. Leiter was not represented, and the other Franklin County operators, who were just getting their mines in shape, refused to accept the terms which were offered, hence there is now no scale in effect as far as they are concerned.

Shortly after the miners went to work on these terms Levi Z. Leiter died, and Joseph Leiter assumed active management of the affairs at Zeigler, and continued in effect the policies which had been outlined by his father. The union was recognized to the usual extent. It is a rule that the dues and assessments shall be deducted by the company from the pay of the miners and paid over to the financial secretary of the union, and this was done by Mr. Leiter's officials. About the middle of June this practice was stopped, and during the last week of June Mr. Leiter issued a notice that the mine would be placed at once upon a scale of piece work. The miners remonstrated that the shaft was not yet ready to be put upon such a basis and that the machinery was not yet all installed.

NO SCALE MENTIONED.

From the miners a committee was appointed consisting of L. G. Gosnell, president of local union No. 248, J. W. Shadowen, Ed. Rich, M. J. Bulger, William Towler, Ed. Austin and George Bagwell. They had the advice and personal assistance of William T. Morris, member of the State Executive Committee of the Mine Workers. This committee held two conferences with Mr. Leiter, in which his determination to place the mine upon a piece footing was reiterated. No proposed scale of wages was mentioned.

On July 7 Leiter posted his proposed new scale, which met with instant opposition from the miners, and the committee again conferred with him. They proposed arbitration of the differences existing as to wages. Mr. Leiter refused, and when the 3 o'clock shift came out of the mine on July 7 an order from the officers of the union ended the connection of every union man with the plant and they walked out in a body.

An order was posted the next day at the office that all householders who were not on the pay roll of the company should vacate the houses by train time of the succeeding day, and for the next few hours every available wagon and team in the countryside around was pressed into service hauling away the household goods of the striking miners. The nearest town was Christopher, five miles away, but it was small, and there were no houses for rent, and in fact in any of the surrounding towns there were few, if any, vacant houses. Accordingly the leaders secured a piece of wooded land a fourth of a mile east of Christopher, and here, in a city of tents, the miners pitched their camp, and there are now in the neighborhood of 150 men, women and children arriving.

At Zeigler the plant was at once shut down and no effort was made to operate the mines. By the terms of the regulations of the union, the engineers and firemen were permitted to remain at work in order to protect the shaft from water. Shortly after the departure of the miners,

J. M. TURNER.

One of the striking miners. He is Mayor of the camp, which was named for him.

Mr. Leiter, desiring to protect his property, brought in approximately 100 special guards from Chicago and St. Louis.

They were uniformed in blue overalls, blue jumpers, leggings and a wide-brimmed straw hat. Armed with a Winchester rifle and 44-caliber Colt revolvers, they were stationed at intervals around the town, and Zeigler to all appearances became an armed camp. No one was permitted to pass or repass without absolutely satisfactory credentials, and then only by telephone order from the central office, with which each guard station is connected. No one who had business within the town had trouble in entering, and the greatest courtesy and consideration is granted to the business visitor. Few of the miners, however, were permitted to pass the guards, and not even under the pretext of getting his mail at the Post Office which is inside the boundaries of the town. The miners demand that a scale be fixed which the union has established and which puts the inexperienced and incapable miner on the same plane and at the same wage with the experienced hand. Mr. Leiter is acting clearly within his rights in the matter. This property is absolutely under his control, and it is his prerogative to dictate what shall be done here, and he will do so.

"He is not a member of the Coal Operators' Association of Illinois, which, with the United Mine Workers, formulated the scale now in effect in this State, and he is not bound by any agreement whatever. If the men do not care to work for what we offer, let them get out and we will get men that do. This plant will be operated whenever we get ready to open it by nonunion miners, and they will be amply protected. There is no truth in the report that we are importing negro miners from the South. We do not want them here and will not have them."

Children thought it was a good time to start on, and drawing back his whip, gave the horse a cut and dashed toward Zeigler. A report of a Winchester banged out, and a sharp command to halt. Children did not stop, but he claims that he heard a bullet whiz by. The two guards, Fred W. McMillan and Bruce Baird, both from Chicago, were later arrested on warrants sworn out by Children, charged with assault with intent to kill, and on change of venue the cases were set for trial in Benton.

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WARRANT AGAINST LEITER.

A warrant for Mr. Leiter charging him with being an accessory before the fact was also issued. Before the hearing began, a proposition made by the attorney for the miners, J. J. and Spiller, was presented to Mr. Leiter's attorneys. After three hours' consultation the compromise was approved, and the cases against the guards were dismissed. The terms were that Leiter should dismiss all of his former guards as soon as they could be replaced by Franklin County Deputy Sheriffs, regularly sworn in by Sheriff Stein, and who should be under his direction solely.

Arms, ammunition and subsistence were to be furnished by Mr. Leiter. These deputies were to be placed wherever the public shall come into contact with guards, and the only personal guards to be maintained are to be stationed at the mine and at the shaft proper. Under the terms of this compromise Sheriff Stein at once began the organization of a special posse, and now has sixty Franklin County residents in service around Zeigler. They are uniformed and armed as are the private guards, and receive \$3 per day and board from Mr. Leiter. At present the deputies are quartered in the houses vacated by the miners, while the special guards have the uncompleted hospital as headquarters.

More than any one thing offensive to the miners is the construction of a stockade around the shaft and power-house. This was begun after the miners walked out, and is charged as a direct intimidation that the men promise trouble. Officers of the company declare that the fence was included in the original plans for the plant and that the lumber was cut for it six months ago.

At all events, work upon it is being rushed as rapidly as possible, and every available man has been pressed into service nailing on the wooden planks. The fence is ten feet in height and is built of inch oak, and completely surrounds the vital portions of the mine which are above ground. The miners are disposed to refer

HAMP WILLIAMS (AT LEFT).

Who was engineer at the Zeigler mine until the strike, talking with F. L. Watson, Secretary and Treasurer of Local No. 248, which is the Zeigler organization of the United Mine Workers' Union of America.

to it as the "bull pen." Unskilled labor was offered \$3 and \$3.50 per day to assist in completing the fence last Monday, at which time two sides only were finished.

In spite of sensational newspaper reports to the contrary, entrance to Zeigler was not difficult to one armed with proper credentials. Though the armed guards were most thorough in their inspection of the documents, the reception given by Superintendent Whittier was most cordial. He told of the plan of Zeigler and the hopes which its founder had, and then led up to the strike proposition.

QUESTION OF RIGHTS.

"It is now a question as to whether Mr. Leiter shall run his own business or shall let some one else do it for him," said Mr. Whittier. "Up to the time he submitted his new scale, he was paying his miners at a rate of five and fifty-one hundredths of a cent. The business men do not care to estimate the value of wages commensurate. This scale is based upon the actual value of the employee, and what he earns is measured by his value and his own efforts. We claim that by this scale experienced miners with the new machines can earn from \$10 to \$15 per day and other laborers in proportion."

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"He is not a member of the Coal Operators' Association of Illinois, which, with the United Mine Workers, formulated the scale now in effect in this State, and he is not bound by any agreement whatever. If the men do not care to work for what we offer, let them get out and we will get men that do. This plant will be operated whenever we get ready to open it by nonunion miners, and they will be amply protected. There is no truth in the report that we are importing negro miners from the South. We do not want them here and will not have them."

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STATEMENT OF MINERS.

For the miners this statement was made by W. T. Morris of Duquoin, a member of the State Executive Committee, and in active charge of the miners' interests.

"This is a strike over the wage question simply. The rates we are demanding are the rates now in effect in territory and fields similar to that in which the Zeigler mines are located. They are the rates as agreed upon by a joint conference of operators and representatives of the miners, and are known by actual demonstration to be based upon a fair and equitable foundation. Mr. Leiter has installed machinery, all of which has been tested before and of which there is expert testimony on record as to its merits and earning value."

"We proposed to refer the scale for his power machinery to arbitration, which he refused. When we proffered arbitration he replied: 'I will never, never, arbitrate another labor question as long as I live.' And this, in brief, is his position in the present case."

"We organized a camp at Camp Turner because we had no place else to go when we were ordered away from Zeigler. We do not intend to use force and will not. Our men are peaceable, well educated American citizens, who believe in good government. I do not anticipate any trouble at Zeigler, and do not believe there will be any. Peaceful approach and a demonstration which we stand for will be used with men who come to take the places of the striking miners."

"As a matter of fact, Mr. Leiter is deceived in the producing value of his machinery. We know from practical experience what they can do, and we know that we cannot work at his scale and make a living. He is wrong as to his basis for arguing and will not give us a chance to convince him of the fact."

In the present trouble it seems that Mr. Leiter is standing alone. While they are taking no active part in the matter, the sympathies of other operators with the miners rather than with Mr. Leiter. Should he win and produce coal at his figures he will be able to place his article

on the market at a price which approximates 17 cents per ton lower than the lowest rate now in effect in Illinois. The operators are bound by an agreement with the United Mine Workers, which has yet two years to run and for which they are financially liable. Under its terms they will be unable to raise their coal at any price approaching the Leiter figures."

"At the same time their affection for the miners is not the greatest in the world and they do not care to lend them even moral assistance. In conversation with one of the representative operators of Southern Illinois he said: 'Should Leiter win, the coal mining industry in Southern Illinois would be demoralized, and I have no idea what the result would be. Leiter has determined to run an independent mine, regardless of every other interest around him. Of course, we do not want to see him win, and on the contrary, a victory for the miners would only strengthen the union, which is already unmeasurably powerful, so we are between the devil and the deep sea.'"

SENTIMENT IN COUNTY.

Public sentiment in Franklin County is difficult to estimate. The business men do not care to discuss the situation, and there is right on both sides is the general opinion. Leiter's investments have increased land values and the value of all classes of labor, and he has spent a small fortune in the county, and this fact is appreciated. Of course, the other hand, the striking miners are in the most cases old citizens of the county, whose motives and opinions are unquestioned. The possibility of trouble is deprecated on all sides, but a long and stubborn contest is anticipated. Sheriff Stein has the confidence of all parties, and he is believed to be fully able to cope with any emergency which may arise."

Zeigler, the town which Leiter is making famous, is situated in the southwestern part of Franklin County, twelve miles from Benton, the county seat and five miles from Christopher, the nearest railroad station on the Edwardo branch of the Illinois Central Railway. Carbondale and Duquoin, great coal-mining centers are the nearest towns of importance."

Here it is that the Leiter interests of Southern Illinois are centered. Their 7,500 acres of land lie between the Illinois Central and the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railways. When Levi Z. Leiter selected this site for his model town he chose an ideal location."

Flanked by rolling uplands, Zeigler itself rests in a timbered glade and the town bursts upon the gaze of the approaching visitor as he reaches the crest of one of the outlying hillsides. In the center of the town stands the handsome stone building in which the administrative heads have headquarters. Every modern facility for handling accounts and directing the business is employed and it is indeed a model building. Some of the officers have their private rooms in this building and immediately in the rear is the "Annex," where the officers maintain a club for eating."

The administration building stands in the center of a circle formed by the principal buildings of the town. At the eastern circumference of the circle are the stores, which are housed in one building. Across from them are the hospital and artificial ice plant, and to the south of the stores is the electric light plant and power-house. Compacting ten circles are the streets upon which are the homes of the men. In the direct vicinity of the mine is located the magnificent power-house, tipple with its modern dumping and loading apparatus and the shaft proper. The general plan of Zeigler follows Washington, D. C."

It was the original intention to have the town a city of 10,000 inhabitants, and ultimately a city of 100,000. The town was laid out with this population in view as a natural result of the development of the vast fields of coal which are now known to underlie the Leiter land. It has been the consistent purpose of the management to give every possible advantage to its employees."

In the first place, the houses for the miners were excellently constructed, and while not elaborate, are cozy and neat."

Each one is constructed on a different plan from its neighbor, so that there is not the row after row of block houses so noticeable in the average mining town. Each room is plastered and studded with oak, running water is connected with each house, and there are electric lights in every room. It is entirely optional with the lessee whether he uses electricity, for which a charge of 50 cents per house is made. For these houses the company charges a rental of \$5 per month for the three-room houses and \$8 per month for the six-room houses. The rental is deducted from the pay checks."

It is said that prior to the strike the miners declared themselves that Mr. Leiter had no lot or house will be sold, and the lease provides for its termination on twenty-four hours' notice."

At the store, which is practically a big department store, all grades of household supplies were kept. Furniture, clothing, boots and shoes, and, in fact, almost any article desired could be purchased there. Superintendent Whittier stated that the stock was kept first-class in every particular, and that it was the endeavor of the striking miners to "turn over" the stock every thirty days."

He said that from the evidence of disinterested parties, who had made an investigation and compared prices with those of near-by towns, he was positive that prices in Zeigler were not as high as in some of the towns surrounding. The men with their families are comfortably ensconced. Their household goods were brought in just as they left Zeigler, and the community is dwelling together in peace and unity."

From the headquarters tent the American flag waves, and the fact that with few exceptions the miners are American citizens and for the greater part residents of Franklin County before the Leiter mine were thought of, gives a typically American air to the camp."

A system of government, headed by a Mayor, prevails, and police authority is given to a Sergeant, J. M. Turner, for whom the camp is named, occupies the position of Mayor, and is in charge of affairs. He is one of the representatives of the miners, and is a man of more than the ordinary intelligence, as, indeed, are a majority of the miners."

The women and children are well dressed and seem to be enjoying their summer outing. At present the men are living upon their own resources, but the treasures of the mine workers of the country over are open to them whenever necessity demands. The families live together and the single men, probably fifty in number, are boarded at a general dining tent."

No liquor is allowed in camp, and no profanity is tolerated. The nearest saloon to the camp is at Benton, nine miles away. During most of the day the men are absent on picket duty to see that no nonunion men get to Zeigler. There is the policy of moral suasion, and without exception, the men have been effective in turning back Zeigler-bound miners."

E. O. PHILLIPS.

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E. O. PHILLIPS.

U. S. CLERK HAS USED ONE PEN POINT FOURTEEN YEARS.

Remarkable Economic Record of Cad Burba, of the General Customs Office at Louisville.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Louisville, July 30.—The constant use of a pen point for fourteen years, a penknife eighteen years, an ordinary indelible lead pencil five years and a key ring nineteen years to the ordinary person sounds incredible, but such is the case with Cad Burba, a clerk in the general customs office here.

Mr. Burba, who was in the drug business at New Hope for more than ten years, is now using constantly a pen point he secured, secondhand, while in the drug business, and since he has been at work for Uncle Sam he has continued to use it, preferring it to any other. During that time he has worn out two pen holders, but the point is still in the prime of condition, kept so by the care bestowed upon it by its owner.

GETS FORTUNE FROM IRELAND.

Police Captain Sells Rights Under Land Purchase Act.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, July 30.—Police Captain William H. Hodgins of the Oak Street Station, and his son have returned from Ireland with a snug fortune.

Captain Hodgins went abroad a month ago to look after his rights in the matter of an estate in Ireland, from which his father had been evicted twenty-seven years ago. The captain said that his visit had been successful, and he brings back with him a small fortune from the present tenant of the land for waiving the first claim toward the purchase of the land under the new law.

THICK VEIN OF COAL.

The vein of coal which is in the first stages of development is 45 feet below the surface and varies in thickness from eleven to twelve feet. The coal is known to the trade as the "Big Muddy," and is said to be the finest coal for general purposes to be obtained west of Pennsylvania. Borings to a depth of 300 feet have been made and the cores of this boring are now in the Leiter offices and no one but the inner circle know the value of the lower veins. Report has it that the coal is heavier and finer than what is being worked, and is practically inexhaustible. Expert mining engineers have figured that there is an ultimate profit of